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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am a residential consumer of broadband and telephone service in San Francisco, California, and I chose a local competitive provider because the service and pricing were far superior to the huge companies who are pushing deregulation of broadband services.

USTelecom is wrong when it claims that dismantling the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will produce lower prices and more competition for residential and small business customers. It won't. It will produce less competition, higher prices, and worse service.

The huge companies always claim that deregulation will produce lower prices and more competition for customers and they are always wrong.

The FCC is responsible for the well-being of the consumer, not the telecomm industry.

Moreover, I am also an unfortunate residential consumer of telephone services (no broadband is available) at a family vacation residence with no cell phone service. Our elder family members need quick access to emergency, medical, and other services if they are to visit there at all. The lack of competition in that very rural location means that we are stuck with a company that charges high prices and can't provide dependable service where it's most essential.

Rural customers are most at risk when an industry is deregulated; they are few and far apart and can't bring the weight of numbers to bear on providers the way we city-dwellers can. The FCC has a responsibility to ensure they are not left behind.

I urge you to do your job and leave the Telecommunications Act of 1996 intact.

Martha Benioff